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# The Post Dispatch

77th Year Number 39 USPS 439-620 © 2003 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 50¢ Thursday, February 27, 2003

Inside  
Your  
Hometown  
Newspaper  
This Week



## Post Notes

### Rally for our country

A moment of prayer and devotion will be held March 3, 2003 at 3 p.m. at the Garza County Courthouse front lawn. The event will include prayer for the country, the men and women who serve and protect the nation and its leaders. The special event is sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension.

### 4-H Shotgun Sports meeting March 4

A Garza County 4-H Shotgun Sports organizational meeting will be held Tuesday, March 4 at the Post Community Center beginning at 7 p.m. The 4-H Shotgun Sports program will teach gun safety, basic gun skills, shotgun sport and competitive shotgunning. Garza County youth ages nine to 18 years old are eligible to participate, must have at least one parent attend. Call Mark Kirkpatrick at 495-2235 or Ray Mason at 495-2776 for more information.

### PC&TB banquet March 1

The annual Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau banquet will be held Saturday, March 1 in the Post Community Center, beginning at 7 p.m. Citizen and Business of the Year awards will be presented, along with Conservationist of the Year. Humorist Jim Bob Solsby of Big Lake will be featured speaker. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at the Bureau's office or from any director.

### Hallelujah Chorus in Post March 2

The famed Lubbock Christian University's Hallelujah Chorus will present a concert at the Post Church of Christ at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 2. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Special oak tree dedication Monday

The Stephen F. Austin Oak Tree dedication ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. March 3 at the Garza County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

### VFW Post plans VA hospital trip

Members of VFW Post 6797 Men and Ladies' Auxiliary will make the annual trip to the VA Hospital in Big Spring on Thursday, February 27. Those who have magazines or books to donate should take them to the VFW Post on Wednesday (2/26). Also needed are puzzles, toiletries, puzzles, tablets and writing materials. Call Post Commander Charles Ratliff at 495-2026 for pickup of donated items.

### Military news sought

The Post Dispatch is seeking news about Garza County active duty U.S. military personnel. Call Sandy Smith at 495-9900 to be included in news about our young men and women serving in the U.S. military.

### Reception for new Post ISD supt.

A public reception for Marlin Marcum, the new Post ISD superintendent, and his family will be held 2 p.m., Sunday, March 9 at the Hotel Garza.

### Cancer survivors needed

If you or someone you know is a cancer survivor, please contact Nancy at 495-3315 to participate in the "Survivor Walk" in the 2003 Relay for Life.

### "Desperate Ambrose" at Garza Theatre

"Desperate Ambrose" continues at the Garza Theatre Friday and Saturday and again March 7, 8 and 9. The play, written by Donald Payton, is directed by Beth McBrayer. Tickets may be obtained by calling the box office, 495-4005.

### Calvary Baptist Church hosts Dr Wade

Dr Charles Wade, Baptist General Convention executive, will be featured guest at Calvary Baptist Church, Saturday, March 8 at 7 p.m. The event is a "question and answer" session about current issues in Texas Baptist life. Dr Wade will also preach at the church's Sunday morning worship March 8.

### Advanced EMT training class

The City-County Ambulance Service of Post is organizing a training class in Post for qualified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) seeking to upgrade their certification by the Texas Department of Health to an Intermediate Level EMT. Interested applicants must already have current certification as an EMT-Basic. Western Texas College in Snyder has agreed to sponsor course instruction in the Post area if at least 12 qualified applicants enroll for the course. The course will be two nights per week beginning in May, completing in August 2003. Call the EMS administrator during regular business hours at 806-269-0075.

### Introductory EMT class offered

The City-County Ambulance Service of Post is organizing a training class for those interested in qualifying for certification by the Texas Department of Health as Emergency Medical Technician. This class is open to anyone, even if you have never received any type of emergency medical training. The class is designed to provide necessary instruction for certification as an EMT-Basic. Western Texas College of Snyder has agreed to sponsor the training in Post with at least 12 applicants enrolled. Classes will be two nights per week, beginning in May with completion in August 2003. To sign up for the course, call the EMS administrator at 806-269-0075 during regular business hours.

### Warning sirens tested Saturday

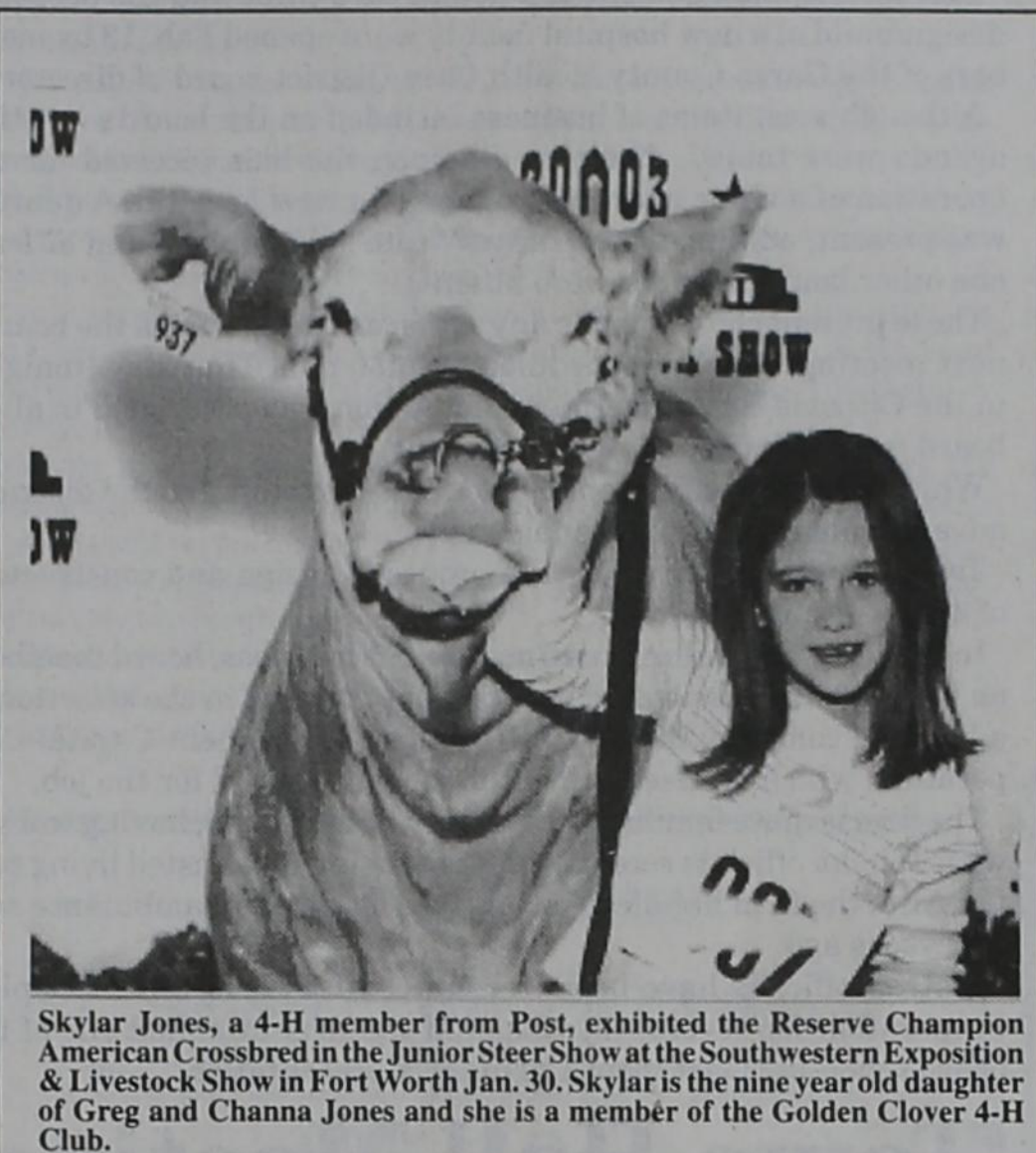
Garza County Sheriff Kenny Ratke has announced warning siren testing Saturday at noon. There are two siren signals being tested: a "Alert," three-minute steady signal (tornado warning) or a "Take Cover," three minute wailing signal, which means a tornado is on the ground and threatening the area.

### Relay for Life teams sought

It's time again to get teams together for the Third Annual Garza County Relay for Life. This year's Relay for Life will be held June 13-14. The Relay for Life is a fun way to join others in the fight against cancer and to raise funds for activities of the American Cancer Society. For more information about forming a team or participating as a survivor, call Amy Pennell at 495-3600 or 495-4316 or Jana Bullard at 495-2804 or 495-2037.

### Section 8 housing assistance

South Plains Regional Housing Authority will accept applications in Post for Section 8 housing rental assistance on Friday, February 28 from 9 to 4 p.m. Interested persons should call (806) 894-4560 to schedule an appointment and obtain information for the application process.



Skylar Jones, a 4-H member from Post, exhibited the Reserve Champion American Crossbred in the Junior Steer Show at the Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show in Fort Worth Jan. 30. Skylar is the nine year old daughter of Greg and Channa Jones and she is a member of the Golden Clover 4-H Club.

## One call for emergencies

Getting an ambulance is about to get quicker in Garza County. Beginning March 17, the City-County Ambulance Service, known locally as the Post EMS, will formally join the emergency communications system operated out of the Garza County sheriff's office. The move, according to Sheriff Kenny Ratke and ambulance service administrator J. Terry Bartlett, is designed to increase the overall emergency medical response capability county-wide by teaming the county's ambulance operations with the existing 9-1-1 emergency dispatching system at the sheriff's office.

This marriage of emergency communications and services became a reality following the update of the sheriff's department's emergency communications system during the past year. Also, the ambulance service was able to purchase the radio equipment necessary to tie each emergency medical technician (EMT) directly into the sheriff's department's 9-1-1 dispatch center.

To enhance the process, sheriff's department dispatchers received the training to become state certified emergency medical dispatchers. Their new skills, coupled with the radio equipment upgrades, should allow the 9-1-1 dispatch center at the sheriff's department to better handle the critical communications functions necessary in all types of emergency activities, according to a press release issued Monday.

The most immediate and obvious result the public can expect to see with this change is a reduced time between the first call for medical help and the arrival of an ambulance at the scene, the press release states. Quicker response times are possible because individual EMTs have direct radio contact with sheriff's department dispatchers.

"This direct communication should eliminate vital minutes in delays getting the ambulance started toward the scene at a time when those minutes can be critical to the health and safety of the citizen in need of emergency medical care," stated the release, which was submitted by Bartlett and Ratke. "Additionally, with their new certifications as emergency medical dispatchers, the 9-1-1 dispatchers are better able to more specifically assist the caller in dealing with the initial care of the person in need while awaiting the arrival of the ambulance on the scene."

The system also allows the dispatchers to provide ambulance crews with more detailed information about the medical situation at hand so EMTs are better informed upon arrival.

"Garza County has been blessed for many years with skilled emergency ambulance services as a direct result of the highly dedicated volunteers that work to maintain themselves as Texas Department of Health certified emergency medical technicians," the press release stated. "This new capability joins the emergency medical services team with the Garza County sheriff's office in providing even higher quality emergency medical services throughout the county.... If someone needs an ambulance, all they need to do is call 9-1-1... and the sheriff's dispatch center will take care of the rest."

## Humorist headlines Post C&TB Banquet

The annual Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, beginning at 7 p.m. in the community center.

Theme for this year's event is Post - Deep in the Heart of Texas. The theme will focus on the state and the vital role Post plays in Texas.

Awards for Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year and Conservationist of the Year will be given, and outgoing directors and incoming directors for both the Commerce & Tourism Bureau and the Women's Division will be recognized.

Speaker for the banquet will be Jim Bob Solsby, a Department of Agriculture employee and noted comedian from Big Lake. As a child, Solsby had a severe stuttering problem, but dreamed of being a humorist and speaker who could make people laugh and feel good about themselves. Today, he said he feels fortunate to be living out that dream.

Banquet tickets are available from any bureau director or at the office at a cost of \$15 per person.

## Commissioners join Lubbock in supporting Foreign Trade zone

by Wes Burnett

At its regular meeting Monday morning, the Garza County Commissioners' Court approved a resolution in support of a regional Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) in cooperation with Market Lubbock Inc. The FTZ will provide incentives for manufacturers or distributors to locate in counties adjacent to Lubbock County.

Lubbock Market Inc. representatives explained that businesses in the FTZ could take advantage of tax abatement for imported items used for manufacturing or distribution. The county is not required to abate inventory taxes, but would have that ability to entice industry to locate here.

The project supports the application by the Lubbock International Airport and City of Lubbock to establish an FTZ in Lubbock and to include Garza County in the Zone Service Area.

In other action, the commissioners approved the sale of a vacant lot in the 300 block of West 13th Street to the lone bidder for \$2,000. A bid for another lot on 12th and Avenue H was tabled for further consideration.

An indigent application for utility assistance was approved in the amount of \$50.

Emergency Management coordinator Leon Miller was authorized to proceed with plans to provide a location for emergency medical supplies at the Post Community Center. Miller explained to the court that the Texas Department of Health has requested counties to identify a suitable location from which pharmaceutical drugs could be stockpiled in case of an emergency.

The commissioners also approved appointments to the Garza County Historical Commission. Linda Puckett will serve as chairman of the commission, with vice chairman Jimella Simpson, secretary Jackie Gonzales, Geraldine Butler, Lewis Earl, Jimmy Redman, Alvin Davis and Dorace Wilson.

Judge Giles W. Dalby explained to the court that there have been some delays in preparing legislation toward establishing a Lake Alan Henry water district. Kent and Garza counties are joining in the effort to secure the needed legislation.

## Warning sirens to be tested Saturday at noon

New warning sirens purchased jointly by the city and the county have been installed and are scheduled to be tested at noon Saturday.

In December and January, local officials approved the upgrade and expansion of the four-siren municipal alert system that primarily served as a tornado warning device. Components of the system date back to as far as the 1940s.

Officials opted to revamp the warning system to ensure complete coverage of the growing community and to replace components that had deteriorated and were nonfunctional.

The city and county agreed to split the total cost of the upgrade, approximately \$6,000.

Saturday's test signals will ensure that the new system is operational and can be trusted to alert all residents of Post.

Local officials want area residents to be aware that the sirens essentially can relay two distinct messages — "alert," which is signified by a steady three-minute warning sound, and "take cover," which is conveyed by a three-minute wailing signal.

The "alert" message is used when a tornado warning has been issued for Garza County (when a funnel cloud has been spotted, a downburst is occurring in the area or a severe thunderstorm with winds in excess of 70 mph is approaching). In the event the "alert" message is heard, local residents should turn on their televisions or radios for additional severe weather-related information.

The "take cover" signal conveys the message that a tornado is on the ground and is threatening the immediate area. If the wailing siren is sounded, residents are advised to seek shelter immediately.

To report a siren malfunction or for questions, call 495-4088 or 806-759-4006.



Dr Bobby Bain was honored at a special retirement reception last Sunday. He was seen toting a fishing pole as friends and family expressed their appreciation for his service as Post ISD superintendent. The painting was a gift of Post ISD art instructor Steven Henry. (Photo by Shellee Odom)

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## Melanie Valdez, Wayne Rohan announce June 7 wedding

John and Katherine Valdez of Post are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Melanie Rebecca Valdez, to Jeremy Wayne Rohan, son of Tom and Kathy Bartuska of Jefferson, Texas, and Glenn and Carol Rohan of Friendswood, Texas.

A June 7, 2003, wedding in Post is planned.



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 302 E. Main Street

## Congratulations Skylar Jones!



We extend our congratulations to Garza County 4-H member Skylar Jones for her Reserve Grand Champion American Crossbred at the recent Junior Steer Show at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth.



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## Garza health care district studies various proposals

Bids for the management of a health care clinic and the proposed design/build of a new hospital facility were opened Feb. 13 by members of the Garza County Health Care District board of directors.

Although most items of business included on the board's meeting agenda were tabled, directors did open the bids received for the operation of a clinic and construction of a new hospital. A quorum was present, administrator Tanya White said, but she and at least one other board member were absent.

Those present chose to table any action on the bids until the board's next meeting, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday (tonight) in the Citizens Bank meeting room. Action was postponed to allow board members time to review the bids.

White said the board opened three bids pertaining to the district's advertisement for clinic management.

Two bids were received for the proposed design and construction of a new hospital building.

In addition to handling routine items of business, board members on hand for the session did vote to move forward in the selection of a bonding company with which to work. Government Capital Corporation, which is based in Southlake, was tapped for the job.

The firm is quite familiar with the area, White said, having worked with Tahoka officials recently in establishing its assisted living center. Also, the firm handled the local purchase of an ambulance several years ago.

District officials have been in contact with Government Capital Corporation for several months, and the firm attended one of the board's meetings last month to make a presentation.

## 'Town Hall Meeting' March 6 airs hospital questions

The March 6 town hall meeting, scheduled by the Garza County Health Care District to provide an overview of the various options available regarding health care, will feature a flurry of presentations and question-and-answer session—but not in a typical town hall meeting style.

The session, set for 7 p.m. March 6 at the community center, will open with presentations from several officials, including administrator Tanya White, who will provide a synopsis of the board's activities over recent months. District board members also will speak, as will professionals representing the firm selected by the board for the hospital facility design/build, and Government Capital Corporation, the group charged with handling the bonding process.

Also slated to address the session is an administrator of another community hospital that closed and reopened. The speaker's facility is similar in size to the hospital facility in Post, White said, and the communities and situations surrounding the hospitals' closures also are similar.

The administrator said her presentation will be fairly brief, while others will be limited to 15-20 minutes of speaking time.

Following the planned presenta-

tions, audience members will be asked to organize into four "breakout groups" for individual presentations and question-and-answer sessions. White said this procedure has been planned to allow for "more detailed questions" in a "more orderly" fashion.

A health care district board members, as well as a member of the district's steering committee, will join audience members in each breakout group. Questions will be recorded, White said, so that any unanswered questions can be researched, reviewed and answered at another time.

Breakout sessions will allow "plenty of time for questions," she said, and are scheduled to be limited to about 15-20 minutes apiece.

The proposal to open a hospital is a response to a 2001 survey conducted within the health care district. According to district officials, a majority of local residents surveyed expressed a desire to have an emergency room facility in Post. To operate an emergency room in Texas, the emergency room must be part of an operating hospital facility.

For months, health care district officials have gathered information on options that could be taken, including the renovation of the existing hospital facility and the construction of a new hospital building. Financing would be funded through the sale of bonds.

After presenting the options to the public and weighing the input, district officials hope to put the issue

## Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

### THIS IS FOR ALL OF THE MOMS OUT THERE!

Have you noticed anything fishy about the inspection teams who have arrived in Iraq? They're all men!

How in the name of the United Nations does anyone expect men to find Saddam's stash? We all know that men have a blind spot when it comes to finding things.

For crying out loud! They can't find the dirty clothes hamper. They can't find the jar of jelly until it falls out of the cupboard and splatters on the floor... and these are the people we have sent into Iraq to search for hidden weapons of mass destruction? They probably couldn't find them if they were lying in the middle of a dusty street with a picture of Saddam aiming a rifle in the air taped on the side.

I keep wondering why groups of women weren't sent in—preferably mothers.

After all, mothers know that their boys can't find their socks or underwear when they're neatly folded in their dresser drawers, so how could they be expected to find hid-

den biological weapons? On the other hand, mothers can sniff out secrets quicker than a drug dog can find a gram of dope.

What we need over there are women like my mother.

My mother could find the old olive bottles filled with dimes that dad stashed in the attic beneath the rafters. She could sniff out a diary two rooms and one floor away. She always knew when the lid of the cookie jar had been disturbed, and I swear she must have dusted for prints on the roll of salami that was always in the refrigerator. She knew if a slice had been removed and by whom.

I developed her ability to stalk out criminal activity when my kids were at home. They couldn't get away with much that I didn't know about.

They still think they got away with a lot, but actually I always knew what they were doing, and if I decided that what they were doing was not too important or dangerous, I allowed them to think they were getting away with it. It was important for them to think they have an uncanny ability to pull the wool over mom's eyes occasionally.

But male inspectors? Going after Saddam?

Now I know that our country has gone mad. Those inspectors will rely on electronic equipment to scout out hidden threats. They will try to use science to find chemicals. These men, dressed in their pretentious jumpsuits, carrying their bulging briefcases, will barge into palaces and hovels, look around and then officiously announce, "all clear."

But if mothers were sent in they wouldn't need body suits, briefcases or science. Mothers would go in, charge up to Saddam and, with their hands on their hips, demand, "do you have any weapons of mass destruction?" And they could tell in an instant whether he was lying or telling the truth.

And mothers would be quite capable of finding his cache no matter how cleverly he thought it was hidden.

God help him once it was found; he would be chastised until he begged for mercy. He wouldn't be given a "time-out"; he would get an old fashioned butt-blistering by women who are adept at butt-blistering. And by the time these women finished with Saddam, he would be sitting in the middle of a dusty road with a limp rifle and a stunned look on his evil face.

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# Obituaries

## Joe McCowen

Services for Joe McCowen, 64, of Post were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2003, in the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Steve Rogers officiating. Burial was at 4 p.m. in the Peaceful Gardens Cemetery in Lubbock. Hudman Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

He died Monday, Feb. 24, at his home.

Born June 18, 1938, in Snyder, he married Margie Summers. He owned and operated service stations in Post for many years and later worked on the Alaskan pipeline. A Methodist, he was past president of the Antelope Booster Club and was a member of the Post Chamber of Commerce.

Survivors include his wife, Margie McCowen of Ruidoso, N.M.; three daughters, Nancy McDonald of Post, Patty Pruitt of Lubbock and Miranda McCowen of Ruidoso; his father, Allon McCowen of Slaton; one brother, Bobby McCowen of Houston; one sister, Carolyn Countryman of Watauga; and six grandchildren.

The family has suggested memorials be made to the West Texas Parkinson Society, 3506 21st Street, Suite 402, Lubbock, TX 79410.

## Clarence Linford Warren Sr.

Graveside services for Clarence Linford Warren Sr., 83, of Post were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2003, in the Terrace Cemetery with the Rev. Arthur Kelly officiating. Hudman Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

He died Wednesday, Feb. 19, at his home.

Born Aug. 22, 1919, he married Velma Shaw Feb. 8, 1947, in Hillsboro. She preceded him in death Feb. 4, 1996. A supervisor in the weave room at the Post Cotton Mill until his retirement, he enjoyed fishing and playing dominoes.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Noah Sweeten of Post; one sister and brother-in-law, Inez and Jimmy Faulknor of Blum; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one son, Linford Warren, on Oct. 22, 1998.

# County attorney reports 180 criminal cases in 2002

More than 180 criminal cases were filed for prosecution in the local county court during 2002, according to a report recently submitted to Garza County officials.

## Gospel concert Sunday at Grassland Church of Nazarene

Two people, one team.

Janice and Jerrel Brasher of Russellville, Ark., who will appear in a gospel music concert at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the Grassland Church of the Nazarene, have criss-crossed the United States on a regular basis since 1972.

The Brashears started singing gospel music with their family of three children. When the two daughters and son grew up, married and moved away with families of their own, it was up to Janice and Jerrel to find a way to go on.

After hiring people from outside the family, the couple decided the result just wasn't the same. Although they had what they knew were some of the most talented people in the world traveling and performing with them, the Brashears decided to try something different.

Today, the Brashears do all of their recording with their son and daughters. The recording engineer makes sure the couple, backed by the recording, will produce a full group sound in concert - not just a soloist with background vocals. Those who attend a Brashears gospel concert hear a full band and full group sound, even though there are only two people performing.

The Brashears do their best to make their concerts entertaining, but they are quick to point out that a gospel concert can and should provide spiritual renewal. They want their audience to hear the words of their songs, not just the music.

In his annual report on the Garza County Court and the Garza County Juvenile Court, county attorney Leslie Acker reported that 181 criminal cases were filed for prosecution at the county court level during the 2002 calendar year. Of that number, 64 involved charges of driving while intoxicated and 56 were linked to drug offense charges. Ten of the case total were related to theft charges, and eight involved assault complaints.

During the same calendar year, the court disposed of 200 criminal cases, leaving a pending docket of approximately 76 cases as of Jan. 1, 2003.

Additionally, the county court held 14 hearings concerning filed motions to revoke probation, disposing 13 of them.

Acker reported that the only "significant change" he could draw from the 2002 annual report when compared to those of previous years was an increase in DWI cases. A total of 38 DWI cases were filed in 2001 - 64 were filed last year.

"The activity in the Garza County Juvenile Court has remained steady during 2002," Acker said in his report. Twelve detention hearings were conducted; five new petitions for delinquent conduct/need for supervision were heard; seven adjudication hearings were conducted; and six hearings for modification of disposition were handled.

Acker cited a "significant increase" in his office's handling of hot check collections during 2002. A total of 174 bad checks were processed, resulting in restitution totaling \$19,178.35 paid to merchants and/or vendors. In the previous year, 104 bad checks were handled, resulting in restitution payments of \$9,909.63.

Acker's annual report is drawn from monthly reports prepared by the Garza County clerk and submitted to the Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council.

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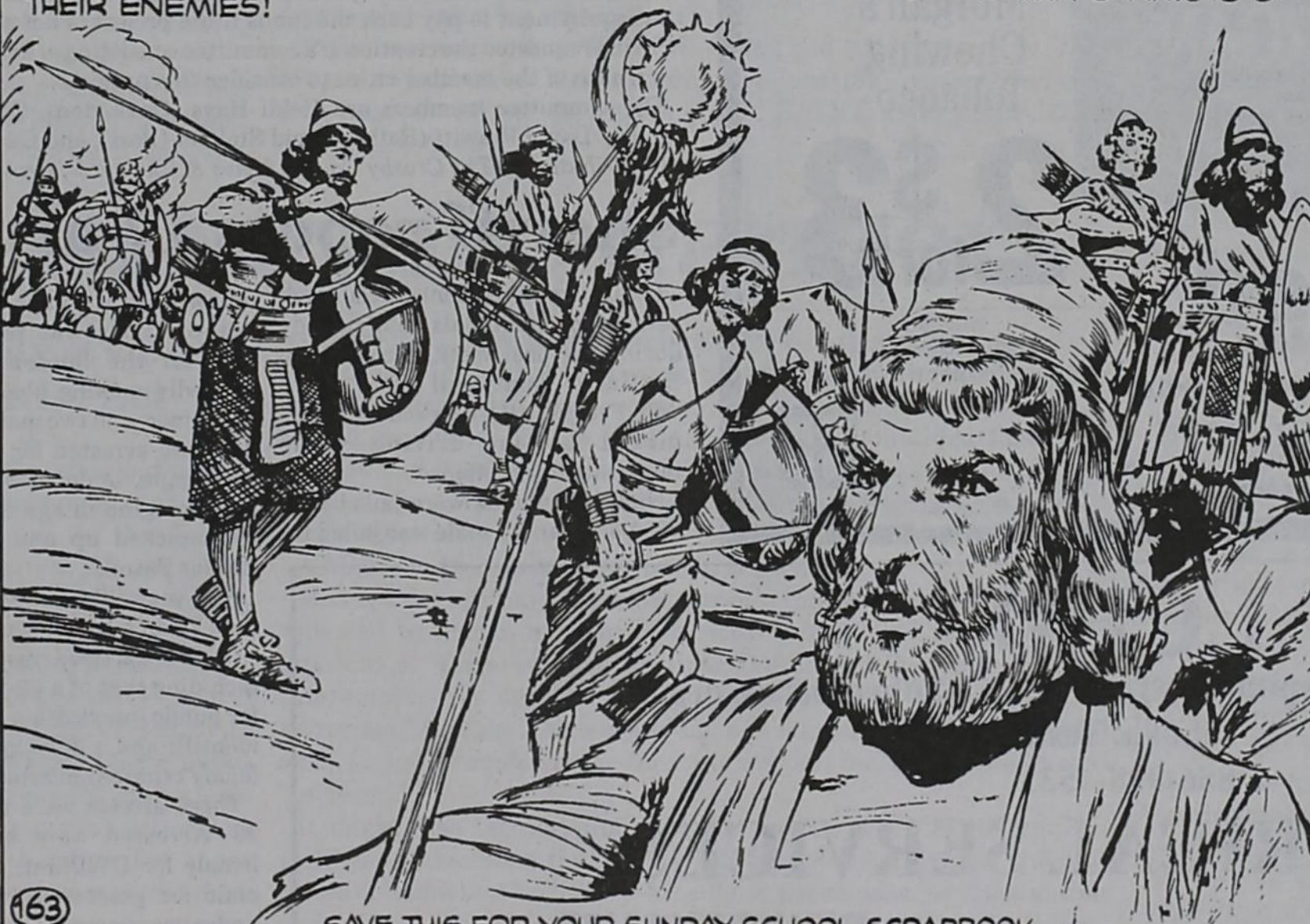
# Post Devotional Page

## Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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### ISSACHAR, THE NINTH SON!

ISSACHAR MEANS HIRELING OR THERE IS HIRE. THE NINTH SON OF JACOB AND THE FIFTH BY LEAH (GEN. 30:17,18). HIS SONS WERE TOLA, PUVAH, JASHUB, AND SHIMRON. ISSACHAR, PRESUMABLY WOULD AND DID GO TO EGYPT WITH HIS FATHER JACOB (GEN. 46:13) WHERE, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH, JACOB, WITH PROPHETIC INSIGHT INTO HIS NINTH SON'S CHARACTER, DESCRIBED ISSACHAR AND HIS CHILDREN AS A STRONG ASS CROUCHING DOWN BETWEEN THE SHEEP FOLDS, SUBMITTING TO THE BURDENS IMPOSED BY FOREIGN MASTERS PROVIDED THEY PERMIT HIM TO REMAIN IN HIS PLEASANT LAND (GEN. 49:14,15). THE DESCENDANTS FORMED ONE OF THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, CONSISTING OF FOUR CLANS, ONE FOR EACH OF THE SONS OF ISSACHAR. AT THE FIRST CENSUS TAKEN IN THE WILDERNESS, THE TRIBE NUMBERED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND FIGHTING MEN AND IN DAVID'S REIGN, IT HAD REACHED EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIRST CLASS WARRIORS! WHEN THE TRIBE OCCUPIED THE VALLEY OF JEZREEL, AS THEIR PORTION OF THE PROMISED LAND THIS LOW LEVEL, AND FERTILE PLAIN, COMBINED WITH THE TRIBAL TRAITS OF THE PEOPLE, EXPLAINS WHY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH JACOB'S PROPHECY, THE TRIBE WAS SO READY TO SUBMIT TO SERVITUDE -- THEY HAD MUCH TO LOSE, LIVING ON GROUND THAT WAS SO WELL ADAPTED TO THE ACTION OF THE WAR CHARIOTS OF THEIR ENEMIES!



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|--|--|

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## Letters to the Editor

**Letters to the Editor Policy:** We require all letters to be signed. Letters may be edited for brevity, grammar and punctuation. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect those of The Post Dispatch nor its staff.

### Living in a dream world

I have followed with interest the Health Care District meetings. Apparently the Board has decided to build another hospital. Are they living in a dream world, that a new building will make a successful business venture? I can remember the history prior to the closing of our hospital in 1996. It seems at that time, the premier reason was lack of census, a.k.a. no patients!

our community have changed; are they so different from what they were in 1996? The main need then was for a skilled nursing facility to allow our elderly to die with dignity in their hometown.

Even with the new prison industry, if a survey were taken, prison employees residing in Post probably have Lubbock doctors and will more than likely use a Lubbock hospital. This is also true of most of the population of Garza County.

I cannot understand how the recruitment of a doctor will be enough staff to run a hospital 24/7. It also

takes nurses and ancillary staff. Surely you are cognizant of the national shortage of nurses and rad techs, as well as other support staff. Has the Board checked into the cost of agency or PRN nurses, even if you can find them? I can remember the horrendous cost of contract physicians necessary for weekend emergency coverage prior to closing the hospital.

Grant funding does not always happen. The entire face of medical coverage has changed in the last few years, and there are numerous reasons we can't go back to what we remember from earlier times!

Carol Peppers

**Post City Television  
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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

### Senior 4-H Fashion Project

All youth 14 and over interested in participating in the Senior 4-H Clothing Project and Fashion Show, need to call 495-4400 to sign up by February 28th. This is the last date you can sign-up.

### 4-H Photography Project Meeting....

...will be held at the Extension office Monday, March 3, at 4:00 p.m. This is the last day to sign up for this project. All Junior photo entries must be turned in by March 26.

### Livestock Judging

If you are interested in signing up for Livestock Judging, call Greg at 495-4400 by Friday, February 28th.

### District Record Book Training

Advance Level - April 7, TAMU Research & Extension Center, Lubbock, 6:30-8:00 p.m. RSVP to 495-4400 by April 3. Beginner/Intermediate Level - April 15, Colorado City. RSVP by April 10 to 495-4400.

### Rally for Our Country

Join us for a moment of Prayer and Devotion on March 3, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Garza County Courthouse, front lawn, to pray for our country, the men and women who serve and protect us, and the leaders of this nation! Faith is the door way that all miracles come through, but prayer is the key that unlocks the door! Members of the Community welcome! Sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension.

## New directors take oath of office at White River Municipal Water District

The oath of office and Texas Statement of Elected/Appointed Officer were administered to recently appointed director David Prewitt, representing the City of Ralls, at the regular meeting of the White River Municipal Water District board of directors Thursday, Feb. 14. Crosby County Constable Johnny Holbrooks administered the statements.

The board unanimously approved a contract allowing Micky Givens to farm District property. The conditions Givens agreed to in the contract are: Pay an annual cash lease of \$11,000; Pay for 75% of well maintenance; Pay for all flats on the pivot; and Pay the first \$250 for repairs on the pivot.

District Manager Tommy O'Brien reported that the new tank on the Spur line should be completed by mid-March.

O'Brien explained the new upgrading project on the water treatment plant to the new directors. He explained that because of the development of trihalomethanes in the water and state limits, we are changing the method of disinfecting the water. He then went on to explain that chlorine is not doing the job, so ammonia is also being injected into the system.

THE \$180,000 grant application submitted in October 2002, to the Water Development Board was approved. The grant was submitted to conduct a feasibility study for taking water from the North Fork of the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River to divert the water back up to White River Lake. This feasibility study will not only consider costs but also the water quality issues.

The district has a permit to construct a dam on the river just east of Post. A stipulation of the grant contract is that if the study finds that the project is practical and feasible, and we don't build the project within six years of the contract being signed, the district must give back 25% of the monies to the funding agency.

If the project is not built within seven years of the contract being signed, then the district must give back another 25% of the monies, and so forth, O'Brien said.

The grant has not been accepted by the district at this time. BECAUSE of the requirement to pay back the funds if the project is not completed, O'Brien requested the creation of a committee consisting of a representative from each of the member cities to consider this project.

The committee members are Heidi Hays (Crosbyton), Charles Morris (Spur), David Prewitt (Ralls), David Steltzer (Post), and O'Brien.

Contributed by The Crosby County News & Chronicle, Crosbyton.

## Sheriff repots 17 arrests

Local law enforcement officials took seventeen individuals into custody during the past week, according to the Garza County Jail log. On Feb. 19, a 21-year-old male was picked up for driving while intoxicated/first offense. Nine individuals were jailed Feb. 20. A 63-year-old male was jailed for unlawfully carrying a weapon; a 22-year-old male was picked up and held for the Border Patrol after allegedly making alcohol available to a minor; and two men, ages 25 and 21, were arrested for possession of marijuana, under two ounces. Five men, ranging in age from 17 to 33, were picked up and held for the Border Patrol.

A 27-year-old female was picked up Feb. 21 on a bench warrant.

On Feb. 22, two arrests were made, including that of a 33-year-old male for public intoxication and failure to identify, and a 33-year-old male for felony criminal mischief.

Three arrests were recorded Feb. 23. Arrested were a 23-year-old female for DWI/first; a 51-year-old male for possession of marijuana, under two ounces, and indecency with a child; and a 21-year-old male for making alcohol available to a minor. Picked up on Feb. 24 was a 31-year-old male on a judgment.

## Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame names 25

A standing-room-only crowd attended the 2003 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame induction ceremony Feb. 8 in Belton.

In its 29th year of recognizing Texas' distinguished rodeo cowboys and cowgirls, Hall of Fame founder Johnny Boren of Belton congratulated the incoming 25 inductees and began the ceremony with a prayer. President and CEO Dwayne Meacham of League City introduced the organization's executive board and directors and welcomed guests.

World-famous pro rodeo announcer Tom Hadley of Mason and popular professional auctioneer/announcer Dan Willis of Ross, each TRC Hall of Fame members, introduced those being inducted.

The 25 names added to the Roll of Honor that already lists 160 from past ceremonies included Gov. Bill Daniel of Liberty, a "genuine old-time Texas cowboy, rodeo and wild west show performer, producer, announcer and full-time successful rancher," Johnny Ackel of Hamshire; R.C. Bales of McKinney; Leon Bauerle of Kyle; Joe Beaver of Huntsville; Bobby "Hooper" Brown of Amarillo; John Clark of Mansfield; and Jerry L. Coble of Houston.

Also, Gerald Conner of Huffman; Tony Crainer of Alvin; Glenn Dorn of San Antonio; Todd Fox of Marble Falls; Glenn Keith of Wimberley; Ronnie Proctor of Belton; Clinton Wyche of Markham; Jo Decker of San Angelo; and Manulita Woodward-Richard of Lohm.

Special recognition went to Ferrell Butler of Red Oak, Sarge Cook of Dallas and Charlie Rankin of McAllen.

Deceased individuals whose names were added to the honor roll included Jim Bob Altizer who resided in Del Rio; James Alfred Cox, Austin; Fannie Mae Cox, Teck; Derrell Gilfillian, Beaumont; and Whitey Bob Walker, Ennis.

## Coming up in next week's American Profile

Coming in March 2-8 issue of American Profile:

Here's a peek:

**The cover story:** The Great American Wild West Show For the last seven years, Max Reynolds of Lexington, Neb., (pop. 10,011) has traveled the rodeo circuit portraying Buffalo Bill Cody, bringing the Wild West legend to life with thrilling accuracy.

**Health:** Eat right to reduce stress

**Finance:** Don't take credit for granted. Your credit rating affects your ability to buy a home, a car, and more. What is your credit rating? How do you find out, and why should you check it?

**Hometown Recipes:** This hearty stew combines ground beef, cabbage, and beans.

## Menus

Post I. S. D.

**Monday, March 3 Breakfast:** Pancake on stick, fruit and milk. Lunch: Fajitas, onions and peppers, salad, cobbler and milk.

**Tuesday, March 4 Breakfast:** Pop tart, sausage link, fruit and milk. Lunch: Frito pie, Ranch style beans, broccoli, cornbread, pears and milk.

**Wednesday, March 5 Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza, fruit and milk. Lunch: Steak fingers, gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, juice bar and milk.

**Thursday, March 6 Breakfast:** Malt-o-meal, toast, sausage, fruit and milk. Lunch: B-B-Que on bun, pinto beans, salad, ice cream, milk.

**Friday, March 7 Breakfast:** Cereal, toast, fruit, orange juice and milk. Lunch: Cheeseburger, H.B. salad, tater tots, peaches and milk.

**Garza County Trailblazers**  
**Monday, March 3 Lunch:** Meatloaf, corn, green beans, coleslaw, wheat roll and jello salad.

**Tuesday, March 4 Lunch:** Roastbeef, carrots, mashed potatoes, salad, hot roll and cinnamon cake.

**Wednesday, March 5 Lunch:** Spaghetti, fried okra, onion and cucumber salad, garlic bread and cookies.

**Thursday, March 6 Lunch:** Beef and potato stew, mixed vegetables, green onions, cornbread and banana pudding.

**Friday, March 7 Lunch:** Turkey, dressing, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, salad, hot roll and apple cobbler.

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# Opinions

NEWS ITEM: HISPANICS STOPPED, SEARCHED MORE OFTEN THAN WHITES



## And thereafter, poverty in America

by Walter E. Williams



If you're a poor adult in America, for the most part, it's all your fault. That's true, at least today, whether you're black, white, brown or polka dot. According to the definition the U.S. Bureau of Census uses, a family of four with an income over \$18,244 is not poor.

The poverty cutoff for a single-person household is \$9,359, and that for a two-person household is \$12,000. With those definitions, the poverty rate was 11.7 percent, or about 33 million Americans living in poverty in 2001. The greatest percentage of poverty is found in female-headed households.

Over 70 percent of female-headed households are poor. A large percentage of poor people are children (17 percent); fully 85 percent of black children living in poverty reside in a female-headed household. Is poverty pre-ordained? I think not. A married couple, both working full time at a minimum-wage job that pays \$5.15 per hour, would earn an annual income of \$20,600.

Keep in mind that few adults earn wages as low as the minimum wage and those who do earn a higher wage after a few months on the job. If a married couple both working at the minimum wage had no children, they would not be poor; if they had two children, they wouldn't be living in the lap of luxury, but neither would they be below the poverty threshold.

Let's look at poverty in female-headed households. Divorce and death of the father might explain a small part of why there're so many female-headed households. But the bulk of it is explained by people having children and not getting married in the first place. Having children is not an act of God.

It's not like you're walking down the street and pregnancy strikes you; children are a result of a conscious decision. For the most part, female-headed households are the result of short-sighted, self-

destructive behavior of one or two people.

They might have bought into the nonsense of "experts" like John Hopkins University sociologist Professor Andrew Cherlin, who said, "It has yet to be shown that the absence of a father was directly responsible for any of the supposed deficiencies of broken homes." The real issue, according to Cherlin, "is not the lack of male presence but the lack of male income."

That's a call for fathers to be replaced by a government welfare check. According to a NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Poll, the leading cause of poverty identified by both the poor (75 percent) and non-poor (65 percent) was drug abuse. Again, it's not like you're walking down the street and you're struck with drug addiction; to use drugs is a conscious decision.

Drug-users tend not to be very productive. They drop out of school, abandon their families, have scrapes with the law and don't hold down jobs. Would anybody be surprised that poverty is one result of drug usage? Most middle-class Americans, including black Americans, are no more than one, two or three generations out of poverty.

How did they manage this feat; what's the secret for avoiding poverty? I think it's a no-brainer. Finish high school and take a job, any kind of a job. Today, but not when I graduated in 1954, if a person graduates from high school, with even a C average, there is a college or some kind of skills training program somewhere for him, and often financial assistance to boot.

So if a person doesn't take advantage of today's available opportunities, particularly those during the boom of the 1990s, and engages in self-destructive behavior, whose fault is it?

To find out more about Walter Williams, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2003 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

## Liberty is in severe danger

### Patriot Act II: The Sequel, Why It's Even Scariar than the First Patriot Act

by Anita Ramasastry

Soon after the terrorist acts of September 11, Congress passed the USA Patriot Act, which conferred broad new powers upon the federal government. Now John Ashcroft and his scribes at the Justice Department have been working secretly to create new, 120-page draft legislation that, if enacted, would expand greatly upon these already sweeping powers.

This daring sequel to the USA Patriot Act is known internally as the Domestic Security Enhancement Act. It is also nicknamed Patriot II (the name by which I'll refer to it here), or Son of Patriot. On February 7 of this year, a January 9 draft of Patriot II was revealed to the public - but not by the government. It was made public only through a leak. Even Congress itself, strikingly, appears to have played little or no part in Patriot II's drafting (though it seems that Speaker of the House Hastert was, at least, given the opportunity to review the draft last month, as was Vice President Cheney).

Perhaps the Bush Administration is looking to repeat its experience with the original USA Patriot Act. Amidst the emotional turmoil after September 11, the Administration introduced the Act and got it enacted in a matter of weeks. The Senate Judiciary Committee had only a brief, one-and-a-half-hour hearing on the Act, in which Attorney General Ashcroft testified but took no questions. In the House, meanwhile, there was no testimony from opponents of the bill.

After September 11, there was at least some rationale for this expedited consideration. Now, however, there is far less exigency. If the introduction of Patriot II in Congress coincides with the Iraq war, it may well be because the Administration has planned it that way, to take advantage of circumstances to ram the bill through both Houses quickly.

Even if Patriot II does end up being introduced in wartime, citizens and their representatives should fight this legislation tooth and nail, for it threatens to take even more of our liberties away. It is a wholesale assault on privacy, free speech, and freedom of information.

#### Making Total Information Awareness the Law

Admiral Poindexter's proposed Total Information Awareness (TIA) program, which sought to build data profiles of all Americans, sparked a wide public outcry. Congress recently warned against using TIA as a tool against US citizens. Nevertheless, Patriot II, as draft by the Attorney General and his staff, would begin to make TIA the law. For instance, under Patriot II, federal agents would not need a subpoena or obtain a court order to access our consumer credit reports. This provision would open the wedge for TIA to be implemented through a huge database.

Our credit reports are repositories of a great deal of sensitive information - from our employment history to where we shop, borrow and transact.

To see the information, the feds would only have to certify that they

will use the information "in connection with their duties to enforce federal law." Note that they would not have to certify that the person whose information was accessed was suspected of terrorism, or indeed, any other crime. And no one would be notified that their records had been accessed. When a commercial entity requests a consumer's credit report, a note is made in the consumer's file alerting him to this fact.

#### A Mandate to Collect Genetic Information

Meanwhile, not only data, but genetic information would also be collected by the government if Patriot II were passed. DNA would be put into a "Terrorist Identification Database." It would contain information not only for proven terrorists, but also "suspected terrorists." And that term would include anyone who was associated with, or had provided money or other support for, groups designated "terrorist."

It might also include protesters, or anyone else the government dislikes. Remember, the original USA Patriot Act defined the new crime of "domestic terrorism" broadly, to encompass "any action that endangers human life that is a violation of any Federal or State law." Certainly one could envision a disruptive war protester who resisted arrest being tagged as a "suspected domestic terrorist," and forced to provide DNA. Would the government need to get a court order to procure the DNA? Not under Patriot II.

And what if the protester wouldn't comply? That would be a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. Anyway, the protester's refusing to give up DNA might be futile - if any other government agency happens to have a blood sample, Patriot II gives the government the right to put it in the new database. Incredibly, DNA would also be collected from anyone who is, or has been, on probation for any crime, no matter how minor. State governments would be required to collect DNA samples from state probationers and provide them to the federal government.

#### Increasing Surveillance Powers

Database surveillance, under Patriot II, would also be combined with increased active surveillance of citizens. To assess the change, it's important to remember that the Patriot Act itself already greatly expanded surveillance powers. Now Patriot II would, if enacted, makes it even easier for the government to engage in surveillance of U.S. citizens, without having to establish traditional probable cause under the Fourth Amendment. It would do so by making it easier for law enforcement to avail itself of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which issues warrants more easily than federal district courts will.

The FISA Court is meant to address international terrorism, involving mostly noncitizens. Patriot II, however collapses the distinction between domestic and international terrorism, treating wholly domestic criminal acts as subject to the same, looser legal rules that apply to foreign intelligence gathering.

(Continued on Page 7)

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## A peace of the action

by Bill O'Reilly



Because I was a college student from 1967-71, I am a primary source as far as peace demonstrations are concerned. I vividly remember the Vietnam protests and the rhetoric that was used back then: "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" It is eerily similar to what's going on today vis-a-vis Iraq.

Back then, many of the antiwar protestors considered America an evil place, full of warmongering politicians and a military intent on persecuting the people of Southeast Asia. The historical truth, however, turned out to be quite different.

I remember reading a book called "The Killing Fields" documenting the mass murder of up to 2 million Cambodians. Then I saw the movie starring Sam Waterston. What the Khmer Rouge did was exactly what the Nazis did. Yet the peace demonstrators in America said little about it, perhaps because they knew that if the United States had prevailed in Vietnam, the "killing fields" of neighboring Cambodia would not have happened.

In the early 90s, I decided to go to Vietnam myself to have a look around. The communist system there allows little freedom and much poverty. In Saigon, I was besieged by Vietnamese who wanted to send messages to relatives and friends in America. I could not offer any assistance, as my "minder" would not even allow me to take their letters.

The point is that for every action, there is a reaction. The Vietnam War was begun to prevent communism in Southeast Asia. The United States was not successful because our allies were corrupt and we fought on the defensive. But what happened after we left Vietnam was far worse in humanitarian terms than anything that happened during that war. Again, I wonder if the Vietnam peace crowd ever thinks about that.

Now we have a similar but far more threatening situation. Many people simply don't want to remove Saddam Hussein by force. But if force is not used, Saddam stays. That means more Iraqis will be tortured and killed, and whatever weapons Saddam has accumulated stay in play. And despite the rhetoric, it is simply impossible to find vials of hidden anthrax in a country the size of California.

And what if someday some of that anthrax finds its way to your house? An elderly Connecticut woman named Otilie Lundgren experienced that. She's dead. I don't think many of the protestors remember her very well. Perhaps I'm wrong.

If the unthinkable happens and anthrax does show up in America again, chances are the FBI will not be able to trace it. The bureau could not trace the first batch. The arrival of anthrax means Americans will die, institutions will be shut down, and panic will ensue.

The peace protestors do not want to address that possibility the same way they do not want to address "the killing fields." No, the demonstrators are confident that the U.N. weapons inspectors can "contain" a murderous dictator who acknowledged to the United Nations after the Gulf War that he possessed plenty of anthrax and other stuff even worse. And Saddam remains defiant - he will not account for those hideous weapons.

So the next time you see an antiwar demonstration or hear appeasers like Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schroeder, think about Otilie Lundgren and millions of faceless Cambodians. They died horribly, and no power was in place that could protect them.

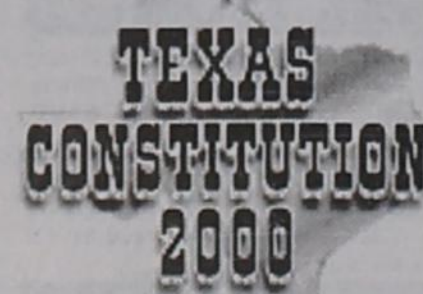
Most of us know in our hearts that honest dissent is a strength of America and that war is a bad thing. But there are worse things, and every American should think about that.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "The No Spin Zone," in addition to last year's best-selling book "The O'Reilly Factor: The Good, the Bad, and the Completely Ridiculous." To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Youth baseball leaders meet for 2003 season

The organization of the 2003 youth baseball season is under way. Individuals interested in coaching or umpiring should attend the Sunday, March 2, meeting at 4 p.m. at Citizens Bank.

Anyone who previously served as a coach who has leftover equipment or uniforms is asked to take these items to the March 2 meeting. The league's board routinely does an inventory on such items to determine its needs each season.

Also, anyone interested in operating the concession stand should write out a bid and give it to a Little League board member or call Rachel Dunn at 495-3540. Deadline for bids is April 4.

Registration for baseball, softball and T-ball will be conducted the week of March 24-28. Sign-ups can be completed at any Little Dribblers game; also, sign-ups will be conducted at the baseball park April 5 and 7 during tryouts.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a team, making a donation or purchasing an advertisement banner should contact Dunn.

## PHS powerlifters advance to regionals

Three Post athletes will advance to the regional competition following last Saturday's Powerlifting Westerner Classic in Lubbock. Advancing are Noah Gutierrez, Jessica Mason and Mark McCallister.

Gutierrez placed first in the 242 division; McCallister placed first in the 198 division and Mason took third in the 148 girls' division. Jessica will compete at the regional meet March 7 in Plainview. McCallister and Gutierrez will compete at regional in Floyada March 8.

Other competitors placing at the meet included Amanda Workman, Travis Hopper, Jace Pollard, Langly Couch and Chris Hernandez.

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### PHS Varsity Baseball Schedule

Feb. 27-Mar. 1 @ Sweetwater Tourney 4:30 p.m.  
Mar. 4 @ Slaton

**PHS Sports on Channel 12**  
Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. & 8 p.m.

# GARZA COUNTY 4-H SHOTGUN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

**No Experience Required**

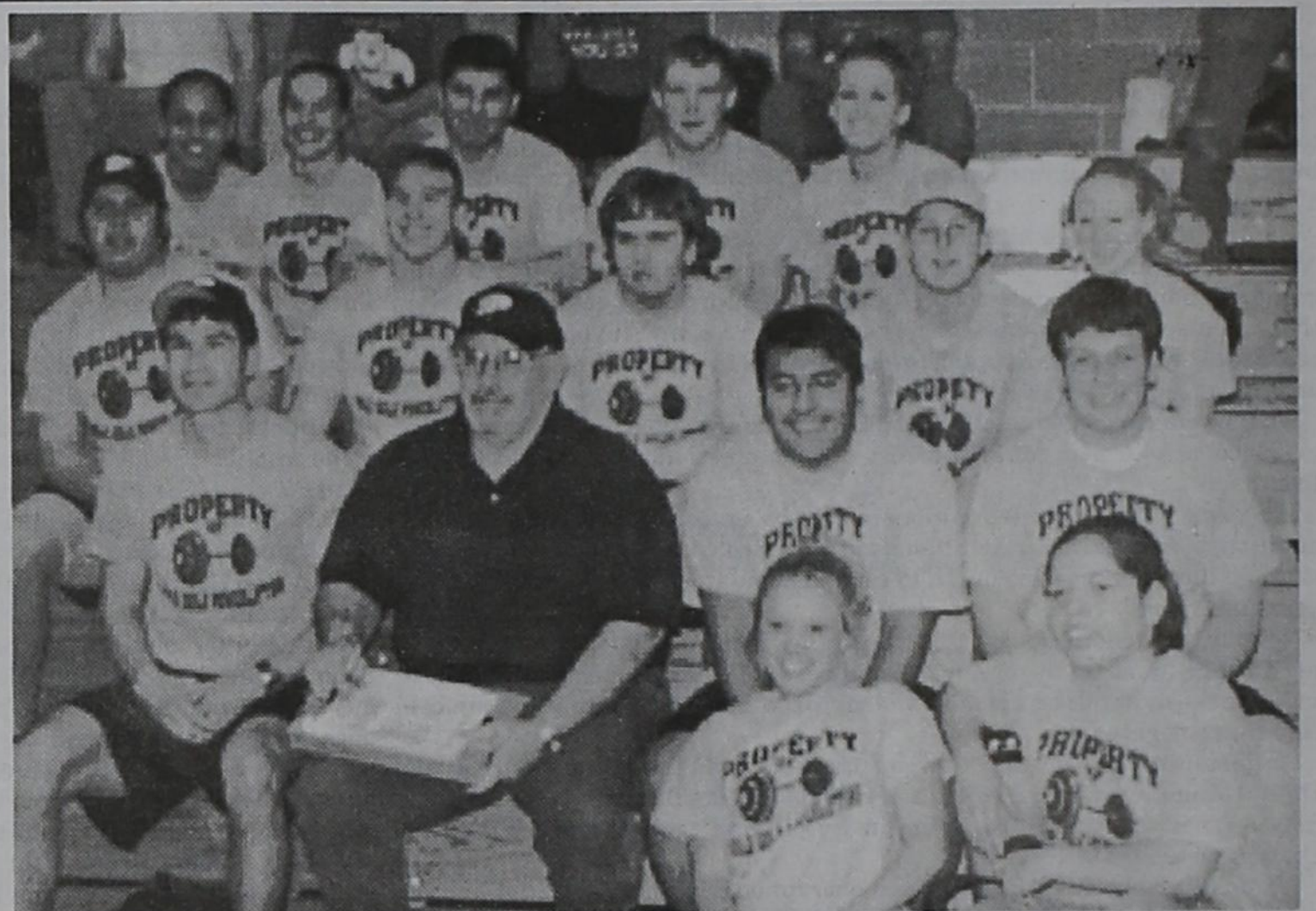
Teaching Gun Safety, Basic Gun Skills, Shotgun Sports, and Competitive Shotgunning

WHO: GARZA COUNTY YOUTH 9 - 18 YEARS OLD (one parent must attend)

WHEN: TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2003 @ 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: POST COMMUNITY CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Kirkpatrick (806) 495-2235  
Ray Mason (806) 495-2776



PHS Powerlifters at the Westerner Classic last Saturday are (back row, left to right) Yuri Lopez, Gentry Creech, Chris Hernandez, Travis Hopper, Jessica Mason, (second row from back) Noah Gutierrez Jr., Mark McCallister, Langly Couch, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Amanda Workman, (second row from front) coach Peña, coach Tarter, Chessuas Garcia, Jace Pollard, (front row) Haley Massey and Alana Gomez. (Photo by Wendy Wischkaemper)



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